

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Meeting
October 8, 2010

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met on Friday, October 8, 2010 from 12:00 Noon – 2:40 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

1. Members present. Vickie L. Carmichael, Gary K. Chavers, Glenn D. Commons, Deborah A. Domine, Roger L. Duvall, James D. Humphrey, A. Christopher Lee, Lori K. Morgan, Peter J. Nemeth, G. George Pancol, and Loretta H. Rush, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Anne Jordan, Angela Reid-Brown, and Jane Seigel provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting on June 4, 2010 were approved.
4. Proposed DCS regulations.
 - a. Members of the committee discussed proposed DCS regulations on child placing agencies and residential treatment providers. They agreed: (1) the use of the CANS by DCS to provide services rather than a court order entered after consideration of witness testimony and reports was problematic; (2) the DCS should have sought collaboration with the committee during the preparation of the proposed regulations; (3) the DCS should inform the committee proposed legislative initiatives in advance; (4) there is concern from members that DCS may be limiting or eliminating services necessary for families, and the committee wishes to work with DCS to prevent this; (5) because of the economy, monies available for children and families will be reduced and we would like to work with DCS to keep services available; and (6) there have been some good collaborative efforts with education areas and new policies, e.g. step down.
 - b. Committee members agreed the ICJFCJ should distribute their joint letter dated September 22, 2010 to all judges, asking judges with juvenile jurisdiction to talk with their legislators and county council about the issues raised in it.
 - c. Members of the committee agreed a strategy should be developed to handle the inevitable missed deadline, use of inappropriate wording in an order, or something that would otherwise cause a county to pay for a service normally paid for by DCS.
5. Shelter care policy. Committee members reviewed a recently received draft shelter care policy from DCS and agreed on changes which should be forwarded back to DCS for review.
6. DMC study. Jeffrey Bercovitz gave a brief report on the disproportionate minority contact study being conducted by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. There will be a full report at the next meeting of the committee.
7. Record checks. Jeffrey Bercovitz reported the DCS will pay for record checks for relative placements and any nonrelatives if living in the home with a relative. He noted there is a cost of \$39.50 for a record check of a placement with a nonrelative.

8. Permanency and the Courts. Jeffrey Bercovitz reported the Indiana Judicial Center and the DCS would hold training sessions entitled, “Permanency and the Courts” on November 4, 9, 10, and 18, 2010. Committee members agreed to host at various sites, and gave comments on various permanency issues.

9. Other.

a. Judge Rush, Chair, asked committee members to bring in samples of evidenced based programming, printed materials and funding at the state and federal levels for the November meeting.

b. Judge Nemeth distributed a proposed amendment to the Juvenile Probation Services fund to members of the committee.

c. Judge Lee requested use of Skype capability for meetings when it is difficult to attend at a long distance.

d. Jeffrey Bercovitz asked how courts administer cases when there are no parents and medical care is needed for the child, and the child is under the “placement and care” of the probation department. Most courts would require a probation officer to get a court order for medical procedures.

10. Next meeting dates. Members of the committee agreed to meet again on Friday, November 5, 2010, January 7, 2011, February 4, 2011, March 4, 2011, May 6, 2011, June 3, 2011, October 7, 2011 and November 4, 2011 all from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law